

B A T T upon B A T T.

P O E M

UPON

The Parts, Patience, and Pains,

Barth. Kempster,

CLERK, POET, CUTLER,

Holy-Rood-Parish in Southampton.

By a Person of Quality.

To which is annexed the VISION,

Wherein is described *Barth's* Person and Ingenuity;
With an Account of the Ancient and Present State and Glory of
Southampton.

By the same AUTHOR.

Dedicated to the Gentry of *Hampshire*, for their Diversion:
But more especially to the Inhabitants of *Southampton.*

L O N D O N: Printed for *Samuel Crouch*. 1680.

THE PRINTER

To the General READER,
Greeting;

But more especially the CLERKS of Pa-
rish-Churches throughout the King-
dom of England, Dominion of
Wales, and Town of Bar-
wick upon Tweed.

FOR your better understanding the
Occasion of the Author's writing this
ensuing Poem, I must tell you, That
Rhyming Batt (like the Bell-man of this
Town at Christmas) made some Hero-
ick Stanzas upon the Author; who, in
requital and gratitude, composed these fol-
lowing Verses.

T. A.

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November 17, 1932

Batt

Batt upon Batt.

To the laud and praise of *Bartholomew Kempster*,
Clerk, Poet, Cutler, of *Holy-Roods* in *Sonthampton*.

HAD I! O had I! *Batt*, thy face and throat,
Could I betune the Flock with such sweet note,
Could I with equal Metre *Hopkins* fit,
Out-*Sternbold Sternbold* Wildom eke outwit;
Then would I venture to set forth thy Praise,
And rob Church-Pews to crown thy head with Bays.

Or had I for thy sake the Triple-scoone
Of *Cerberus*, to bark three ways at once,
Clerk, Poet, Cutler, *Baw, waw, waw*, besides
That Cardinal vertue for on Mules it rides,
Patience I mean, in which thou dost excel,
As all thy Neighbours and thy Wife can tell;
Three Trumps then would I found to thy renown,
And from thy Fame immortalize my own.

Ingenious *Batt*! by Trade and Nature fit
To set an Edge both on our Knives and Wit.
Vulcan, they say, made mighty Arms for *Mars*,
(Cuckolds are kind) but he he'r made a Verse.
Apollo he made Verses, but in's life
I never heard that ere he made a Knife.
Now *Batt* does all that both these Gods could do,
Hammers out Verses, and hard Iron too.
To sheath strong sense in Metaphorick words,
Is but the making Scabbards for his Swords.
He is a two-fac'd Pump, whose Spouts do run
Smith's water one way, Father, *Helicon*.

Have you not seen the thing our Butler uses,
 With cabin'd belly, things call'd double Cruises?
 The right side Vinegar, the left holds Oyl;
 The Emblems *that* of Wit, and *this* of Toyl.
 Such is the Skull of *Batt*, in which the Brains
 Are parted into Poetry and Pains.

He writes and works so equally, you'd think
 One Check were black'd with Smoak, t'other with Ink.

Thrice-happy temper! for what makes our life
 More pleasant than a good Wit and good Knife?
 Without their help, who can good *Christmas* keep?
 Our Teeth would water, and our Eyes would weep:
 Hunger and Dulness would invade our Feasts,
 Did not *Batt* finde us Arms against such Guests.
 He is the cunning Engineer, whose Skill
 Makes Tools to carve the Goose, and shape the Quill:
 Fancy and Wit unto our Meals supplies;
 Carols, and not minc'd meat, make *Christmas*-pies.
 'Tis Mirth, not Dishes, sets a Table off;
 Brutes and Phanatics eat and never laugh.

What man of Teeth then can be so ingrate,
 To slice Roast-beef, and not remember *Batt*?
 When Brawn with powdred Wig comes swaggering in,
 And mighty Serjeant ushers in the Chine,
 What ought a wise man first to think upon?
 Have I my Tools? if not, I am undone:
 For 'tis a Law concerns both Saint and Sinner,
 That he that hath no Knife, must have no Dinner.
 So he falls on; Pig, Goose, and Capon feel
 The goodness of his Stomach, and *Batt*'s Steel.
 In such fierce Frays, alas, there no Remorse is;
 All Flesh is Grass, which makes men eat like Horses:
 But when the Battle's done, off goes the Hat,
 And each man sheaths, with God-a-mercy *Batt*.

So when the *Mistress* cannot hit the Joynt,
 Which proves sometimes, you know, a difficult point,
 Think on a Cuckold, straight the Gossips cry:
 But think on *Batt*'s good Carving-knife, say I;

That

That still nicks sure, without offence and scandal:
 Dull Blades may be beholding to their Handle;
 But those *Batt* makes are all so sharp, they scorn
 To be so charmed by his Neighbours Horn.
 When I the Edges of his Ware have seen,
 (Seen they could not be, they were all so keen)
 When I have found their Temper all so good,
 From the long Rapier to the Oyster-spud;
 Happy, thrice happy 'tis, I us'd to say,
 For all mankind, who wish for length of day;
 That *Batt* no Cutler is unto the Fates;
 His Sheers would cut our Threads off at strange rates:
 Snip-----'tis no more; there's work for *Batt*, and die
 We must, to finde him Cakes and Elegie.

O mortal men! is Eating all you do
 At Christ-tide? or the making Sing-songs? No:
 Our *Batt* can dance, play at high Jinks with Dice,
 At any primitive Orthodoxal Vice.
 Shooing the wild Mare, tumbling the young Wenches,
 Drinking all night, and Sleeping on the Benches.
 I'll say that for him, were he to be hang'd,
 He is as true a Blade as ever twang'd.
 Shew me a man can shuffle fair and cut,
 Yet always have three Trays in hand at Put:
 Shew me a man can turn up Noddy still,
 And deal himself three Fives too when he will:
 Concludes with One and thirty, and a Pair;
 Never fails Ten in Stock, and yet plays fair.
 If *Batt* be not that Wight, I loose my aim;
 If any else pretend unto the same,
 And say we dare not match him for a Pot,
 They lye-----provided *Batt's* Wife knew it not.

Heark, the Bells toll at *Holy-Roods*; away
 To Church, this is *Batt's* Exercising-day.
 He's fally'd out from sign of Pole and Bason,
 With Clergy-Cloak, clean Band, and Sunday-face on.
 Some commend Eunuchs chanting in the Quire,
 But how they should learn Prick-song, I admire,

Some

Some praise their Skill who in white Surplice sing
 Fa, la, fa, sol, Anthems, or some such thing:
 But let them not our smutty Clerk despise;
 Blackbirds still whistle better than Magpies.
 Their charming Trills and Thrombo's must give place
 To the melodious Comfort of *Bart's* face;
 Where Eyes and Nose, Mouth, Beard, and Chin agree
 In each sweet Note: A Quire themselves they be;
 And better Musick it most times appears,
 To see his Strains, than hear the best of theirs.

Then at the Godly Twang, the two last Sta—aves,
 Without which, Service is but done by halves:
 Compar'd to him, what are they? such a thing
 As is his Bell-rope to a Fiddle-string;
 No more like him for Goggle, Sniff, and Croan,
 Than blinde *Bart* is to *Bart* with four Eyes on.

Search the Cathedrals, Colledges, and Halls,
 All Churches, Chappels, Meeting-houses, Stalls;
 Summon all men of edifying Voice,
 From Deans and Chapters, to the Singing-boys,
 Chaplain, and Vicar, Lecturers to boot:
 Nay, that our Challenge may be brave and stout,
 Take in th'Apprentice, by Indenture bound,
 On every Sabbath-day the seven years round,
 To spell his Master fast asleep, and then
 Hem—till he wakes, and gaping, cries—Amen.
 If any (bar mistakes) with greater pace
 Can read the Chapters, let 'um take *Bart's* place.

Well then, put on thy Eyes, and look about thee;
 Do what we can, we can do nought without thee:
 Let's woo and woo, and gain good will, what then?
 It comes to nothing, till thou say Amen.
 No Woman can be Church'd, till *Bart* appear;
 A Christening is no Christening, 'tis he's there.
 Without his help, *Moll*, *Betty*, *Tom*, and *Will*,
 Sweet Babes, God knows, had all been Cakebread still.
 If any well-disposed person is sick,
Bart's sent to; Collects cheaper ne than Physick.

To say the truth on't; *Batt*, no man can be
 With credit hang'd, without thy facultie:
 For who without a Psalm doth take a swing,
 Dies like a Dog; hang him; he would not sing:
 But who turns off in tene, 's a proper man;
 And, *Batt*, thy Knife may cut him down agen.

Nay, were I to be buried for my life,
 And all the learned Parish-Clerks at strife
 Who should the Shovel shake, *Batt* should be he;
 Or else be buried who would for me.
 He can go through the work, and close my Grave
 Not with dust onely, but an Epitaph.

Then, in a word, he is the noblest Blade
 That ever grac'd the Wheel and Whetstone Trade;
 The Organ of our Church, the greatest Lay-man
 That ever solemnly squeez'd out A--Amen.
 He is the Wit, the Mirth, Religion,
 The very Life and Death of the whole Town.
 He is---Hold, Muse! *Batt's Batt*, and so will be;
 Should I say more, 'twould be Battologie.

The VISION.

HOld, hold my head! O *Jove*, thou know'st my pain;
 When *Vulcan* was Man-Midwife to thy brain,
 As *Batt* the better workman is to mine;
Batt! thou that mak'st all the whole Parish whine,
 Come, tune my Fancy, as thou dost the Psalms,
 And with thy Bellows raise Poetick Flames.
 No Inkhorn will I dip in but thy mouth,
 Where Wooll, black Wooll, fit for sad purpose grow'th:
 But lest the doleful Theme should make it dry;
 We'll set, that's Mourning too, a black Pot by.

Bright *Sol*, with Perriwig of curled Carrot,
 And a Face lacca'd ore like his Chariot,
 The cheerful Author of all Wit and Light,
 But what the Bell-man stalks with in the Night,

Had

Had drove the Stage-Coach to the place of rest,
 Drest all his Horses, and himself undrest,
 With Nights black Stockin had becap't his head,
 And softly crept to Madam *Theris* bed :
 Where what he did, I think I need not name ;
 We Mortals, by his influence, do the same.

'Twas then, just then, soft slumber seiz'd mine Eye,

I wink'd, and winking men most Visions spie ;

When to my Fancy (what can't Fancy do ?)

Appear'd a Satyr sad, and full of woe : *Barr's Person described.*

Bald was his Crown, but bristly was his Beard ;

I saw no Horns, but he was over-car'd.

Grief had so sunk his Eyes, that through each hole

Methought I could look quite through to his Pole.

In his Dark-lantern-face, Nose stood for handle,

And a white Tooth suppl'd the inch of Candle.

A Cloak upon one shoulder hangs as thin,

But not so black as was the Wearers skin :

To which compar'd, Charcoal and Jet seem wan ;

'Twould make deep Mourning for an *African*.

A piece of dirty stretching Leather fac'd

His breast ; an Apron, or his Conscience was't ?

He drivell'd Ink, from Nostrils Tar distill'd,

Piss'd Coffee, and with Pitch his hose full-fill'd.

No Fumes from sooty Hypochondria sent,

Could a more dismal Vision represent.

At first approach, in sweat and fear I laid,

And softly *Fee Faa Fum* thrice over said.

Enchanted so, Devil, what art, I crid :

Your very humble Servant, he repli'd.

I am the God of Wit in Masquerade,

The grand Improver of the Rhyming Trade ;

Mechanick Fancy, a true Greshamite,

One that can sing, file, hammer, and indite.

Or if you would in Modern Language know it,

I am a Philo-pyro-technical Poet.

Surcease to wonder, roaking Mortal, that here

I do appear in Elegiac Tatter.

Grief,

Grief, grief 'tis brings me unto thee to wait,
 Both as chief Mourner for *Barr's* dearest Mate;
 And to complain of this ungrateful Town;
 Which lets a Matron of so good Renown,
 An Alder-woman of the sacred Hill,
 Die, without Tribute from each Goose's quill:
 One, at whose Grave all Muses ought to meet,
 Like Swans, with paper-breasts and inky feet,
 And with sweet Ballad crown her godly life,
 The common right of every Poets Wife.

Hampton, O *Hampton*, in the days of yore,
 The lawful Pride of all the Southern Shore,
 With all advantages of Nature grac'd,
 Betwixt the Arms of fair *Antonia* plac'd;
 Guarded by Forests both on Land and Sea;
 From Storms, and Man, the ruder Enemy:
 By *Neptune* and his Argonauts care'd,
 And all that e're were in Tarpoins dress'd.
 Admir'd for Beauty, but for Riches more;
 For nothing can be handsome that is poor.

Fertile in men of Valour and loud Fame,
 In Knights and Giants, as thy Gates proclaim,
 And gentle Poets, without whom those Wights
 Had got but little honour by their Fights.

Upon thy Banks fam'd *Sternhold* did compose
 Those two last Staves which *Barr* so oft doth nose.
Barr to thy Altars too sweet Metre brings,
 And makes as learned Anthems as he sings.

Here once each Tradesman could both work and write;
 As Coblers while at it, they'd make
 Invention was so pregnant, that oft-times
 Men would talk Poetry, that could not Rhymes.
 Poems were pasted up in every Hall;
 As thick and thin as Cobwebs on the wall.
 Here you might view *Haman* in all his pride,
 Us'd like a Rogue, hang'd, and then Dittied.

Sternhold born in
Hampton.

Formerly every house had se-
 veral sacred Rhymes writ.

O

Or the two Elders, Poets in their time,
 Tempting *Susanna* in Battcock Rhyme.
 Each Kitchen, Parlor, Chamber, were all dress'd here
 With *Sampson*, *Joseph*, *Daniel*, or *Queen Hester*.
 No Room was thought well furnish'd for Converse,
 Till hung with Buckram paint and Buckram-verse.
 Nay, I have seen a Ballad full of wit,
 Tore down to findge a Goose upon the spit.

Bless'd Town! where did the Gods ever grant before,
 That men might all be Poets, and not poor?

A happiness ne'r in *Parnassus* known,
 Nor couldst thou, *Hampton*, call it long thy own:
 For Age, who like a Bloud-hound, Glory traces,
 And destroys Towns as well as handsome Faces,
 Hath made thee poor and dull like other places.
 Imp'd with swift wings, thy Beauty's fled away,
 The very ruines of thy Pride decay.

Thy Gates are mouldred, the Portcullis shew' th
 Like rotten teeth in an old womans mouth:
 Walls, Forts, and Towers into their Trenches slide;
 The Castle looks like a Nose French'd;
 As though in vain the *Monseigneur* heretofore
 Had made thee shift thy Lodging for a Cure.

*The Town burnt twice
 by the French.*

Whither are all thy winged Lovers flown,
 The mighty Carricks and great Gallion,
 With all that numerous train which did resort
 In Marine Coaches to thy crowded Port?
 They cease their Courtship now, and onely own
 Thou hast been once a rich and handsome town:
 But Time hath put a period to those days:
 Farewel; when Mills grows old, the Gallant strays.

Nor art thou Bankrupt grown onely in Trade,
 But oh, thy very Wits too are decay'd.
 Whither are now the race of Chimers gone,
 Thy Quibble-Squires, and Knights of *Helicon*?
 All the Wit-Jobbers are quite broke, they say,
 Here's scarce one left that can at Crambo play.
 Nothing of Wit or Poetry remains,
 But thread-bare Coats, no Money, and crack'd Brains.

Oh,

Oh, Heavens, how strange these Alterations are!

Shall we want Ballads in a Country-Fair?

The merry Fiddlers long since left the Town,

And now of late the Gallows is broke down;

Which by the antient Charter still did use

To furnish matter for the Tragick Muse.

No wonder then if Poetry decay,

When such Encouragements are ta'n away.

There was a time when not a Dog could die
Within these Walls, without an Elegie.

A Dog of Note, I mean, not every Dog

Bred up to tug the nasty tail of Hog;

But such as *Quand*, who liv'd in gentile fashion,

And di'd as Gentiles do, of Recreation.

But at *Meggs* Grave they now all silence keep,

As though they fear'd to wake her from her sleep:

Not all the Market will afford a Verse

To pin upon a Sister-poets Herse.

Poet by Marriage, so she claims that honour,

As Madam hers, by a Knight's lying on her.

Nay, *Batt* himself stands mute, as dull and dead

As Friar *Bacon's* thrice-neglected head.

That son of Fancy, got in Raptures, he

Whose life and living is all Poetrie,

Who suck'd *Proserpina* from his Mothers Teat,

Till like a Caterpillar he was all Feet:

A walking Ode, a Hymn of Ekes and Ayes,

Whose Pulse is but the scanning of his days;

He who ne'r speaks nor thinks, but in true time;

Farts Epigrams, and snores to 'um in Rhyme:

He, he stands ditinspir'd, and some suppose,

Intends to take his leave of her in Prose.

A tame wilde beast of late, knowing he must,

When he grew fat, be damn'd to Pasty-crust,

Chose a more noble fate, and licking in

Poyson, prevented the Cooks Rowling-pin.

Heroick Act! which noble *Batt* did scorn

(Hoping to be rewarded with a Horn)

*There was formerly
Musick for the
Mayor and Town.*

*Batt made an E-
legie upon Capt.
Narbon's Dog
Quand.*

*The Dog died of
a Clap.*

*Batt made an Elegy
upon his Wife.*

*Batt made an Elegy
upon Capt. Nar-
bon's Buck.*

Should

Should unbewail'd in Rhyme Heroick go:
 And could not his own Dear oblige him so:
 Must *Megg*, the Wife of *Batt*, aged Eightie,
 Deceas'd *November* thirteenth, Seventy three,
 Be cast, like common Dust, into the Pit,
 Without one line of Monumental wit?
 One Death's-head Distich, or Mortality-staff,
 With sense enough for Church-yard Epitaph?
 No. Stirrup-Verse at Grave before she go?
Batt does not use to part at Favernio.

Grief here prevailing, struck the Satyr dumb,
 Who twisting hard his dropping Nose with Thumb,
 Like one that turns a Conduit-cock about,
 To let the water gush more freely out;
 Methought I wept too then, and sighing said,
 Courage, kinde Gobling, though the Times are bad,
 And Wit's as scarce as Money, yet no doubt
 Fame will provoke some worthy Poet out,
 Who from her Story will renown his Pen.
 He kindly bow'd, and smiling said *Amen*,
 At which I woke, as men at Sermons use,
 And heard *Batt* knocking at the door for Dues.

FALLON'S

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(Hoping to be rewarded with a Crown)
 Heroick Ad! *Walter* noble *Batt* did love
 Poesy, presented the Cooks Rowling-pipe
 Choke a more noble line, and licking in
 When he grew too drunk to Party-cant
 A name wilder than of late, knowing no more
 Intends to take his leave, the *Wit*
 He he hands distill'd and some supple
 Farts Epigrams and rhymes to him in Rhyme:
 He who ne'er speaks now things, but in true time;
 Whole Fills is but the turning of his days:
 A *Wit* who is a *Wit* of his own days

